

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ZACHARIAH J. RUTLEDGE,)	
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	No. C07-4274 CW (BZ)
)	
v.)	
COUNTY OF SONOMA, et al.,)	ORDER SCHEDULING
)	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE
Defendant(s).)	
_____)	

The above matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Bernard Zimmerman for settlement purposes.

You are hereby notified that a settlement conference is scheduled for **Thursday, September 24, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom G, 15th Floor, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

It is the responsibility of counsel to ensure that whatever discovery is needed for all sides to evaluate the case for settlement purposes is completed by the date of the settlement conference. Counsel shall cooperate in providing discovery

1 informally and expeditiously.

2 Lead trial counsel shall appear at the Settlement
3 Conference with the parties. Any party who is not a natural
4 person shall be represented by the person or persons **not**
5 **directly involved** in the events which gave rise to the
6 litigation but with **full** authority to negotiate a settlement. A
7 person who needs to call another person not present before
8 accepting, rejecting or making any settlement offer does not
9 have full authority. If a party is a governmental entity, its
10 governing body shall designate one of its members or a senior
11 executive to appear at the Settlement Conference with authority
12 to participate in the Settlement Conference and, if a tentative
13 settlement agreement is reached, to recommend the agreement to
14 the governmental entity for its approval. An insured party
15 shall appear with a representative of the carrier with full
16 authority to negotiate up to the limits of coverage. The Court
17 shall be notified immediately if the carrier declines to attend.
18 Personal attendance of a party representative will **NOT** be
19 excused by the Court.

20 Each party shall prepare a Settlement Conference Statement,
21 which must be served on opposing counsel and lodged (not faxed)
22 with my chambers no later than **September 18, 2009**. The
23 Statement shall **not** be filed with the Clerk of the Court. The
24 Statement **may** be submitted on CD-ROM with hypertext links to
25 exhibits. Otherwise, the portion of exhibits on which the party
26 relies **shall** be highlighted. The Settlement Conference
27 Statement shall not exceed ten pages of text and twenty pages of
28 exhibits and shall include the following:

1 1. A brief statement of the facts of the case.

2 2. A brief statement of the claims and defenses
3 including, but not limited to, statutory or other grounds upon
4 which the claims are founded.

5 3. A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending
6 motions.

7 4. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for
8 further discovery, pretrial and trial.

9 5. For any party seeking relief, a description of the
10 relief sought, including an itemization of damages.

11 6. The parties' position on settlement, including present
12 demands and offers and a history of past settlement discussions.
13 The Court's time can best be used to assist the parties in
14 completing their negotiations, not in starting them.

15 Accordingly, plaintiff must serve a demand in writing no later
16 than **September 10, 2009** and defendant must respond in writing no
17 later than **September 16, 2009**. If plaintiff seeks attorney's
18 fees and costs, plaintiff's counsel shall either include the fee
19 claim in the demand or make a separate, simultaneous demand for
20 fees and costs. Counsel shall be prepared at the conference to
21 provide sufficient information to defendant to enable the fee
22 claim to be evaluated for purposes of settlement. The parties
23 are urged to carefully evaluate their case before taking a
24 settlement position since extreme positions hinder the
25 settlement process.

26 Along with the Statement each party shall lodge with the
27 court a document of no more than three pages containing a **candid**
28 evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the

1 claims and defenses, and any other information that party wishes
2 not to share with opposing counsel. The more candid the parties
3 are, the more productive the conference will be. This document
4 shall not be served on opposing counsel.

5 It is not unusual for conferences to last three or more
6 hours. Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly
7 discuss their case. Statements they make during the conference
8 will not be admissible at trial in the event the case does not
9 settle. The parties should be prepared to discuss such issues
10 as:

- 11 1. Their settlement objectives.
- 12 2. Any impediments to settlement they perceive.
- 13 3. Whether they have enough information to discuss
14 settlement. If not, what additional information is needed.
- 15 4. The possibility of a creative resolution of the dispute.

16 The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Zimmerman's
17 chambers immediately if this case settles prior to the date set
18 for settlement conference. Counsel shall provide a copy of this
19 order to each party who will participate in the conference.

20 Dated: September 4, 2009

21 
22 _____
23 Bernard Zimmerman
24 United States Magistrate Judge
25
26
27
28